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of All Forms of Discrimination
against Women

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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES
UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

Initial reports of States parties

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

V.88-24463

PART I

1. INTRODUCTION.

1.1 It was a general consesus made by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 34/180 of 1979, that the issue of equality for women should be given special consideration. Thus, the General Assembly approved the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against women.

1.2 In response to Article 18 of the Convention, Tanzania hereby undertakes to submit this report in compliance with the international committment to give effect to the provisions of the convention.

1.3 It has been the Tanzania government's belief that all people are basically equal before the law. The party and government policies advocate equality in all fields of life. For example, the first statement in the then TANU party creed says, "All men are equal and Africa is one."

1.4 Although the Law offers equal rights to men and women, there exists provisions which do not cater for the interest of women. These have somehow, hampered the effective implementation of the national goals on legal rights. It is important to note that, as far as women are concerned the "rights and duties aquired or imposed and established by Usage" have always been defined by men who have been dominant economically, politically, and socially not only in tribal societies, but also in our contemporary society.

1.5 In appreciation of the international efforts in promoting equality for women, Tanzania thereby joined hands with other peace loving states and ratified the convention on the elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against women.

1.6 This paper is submitted in compliance with Article 18 of the convention. It is a committment on the part of Tanzania, to promote women's equality both at the national and the international levels.

PART II

2.1 This section discusses the provisions of the convention provided in the various articles. Consideration was given to those articles and provisions that are relevant to the Tanzania's SITUATION. In some

case more than one article are discussed together.

ARTICLE I - II

2.2 Since Independence, the Tanzania government has been condemning all kinds of discrimination based on colour, religious or Cultural belief, by imcorporating human rights and equality in the ruling Party creed and the Government constitution. Examples to show the government's effort to implement equality for women include:-

1. The marriage Act of 1971, which enabled women to own and dispose property. It also uplifted women's equal position to enter into marriage as equal partners.

2. The Employment ammendment act of 1975, that gave equal opportunities to work in all fields of proficiency and equal pay. The act has also given women the right to get paid maternity leave irrespective of their marital status.

3. Women's exemption from 2 years compulsory working experience prior to entry to the University and other institutions for higher learning.

2.3 To re-enforce upon the Acts, Government party leaders have written and expressed women's rights in various speeches and writtings.. On equality, Mwalimu Nyerere the Chairman of our Ruling Party and former President hand this to say: "And the very first part is that all human beings are equal. This being so, we have to accept that the exploitation, the humiliation, the suffering, of all men- wherever it takes place - means the exploitation, humiliation, suffering of mankind. All men are reduced by it" (Nyerere J.K. - Man and Development).

ARTICLE III

2.4 The various legislations and creeds that safeguard women's rights and equality are implemented by several bodies, such as the judiciary. The government makes sure that the bodies fullfill their responsibilities to facilitate the full development of women.

ARTICLE IV

2.5 The Tanzania Government has at times taken temporary special measures to accelerate the de facto equality between men and women, which is not considered discriminatory. In recognition of women's role in procreation and maternity for example, the government passed the 1975 Employment ammendment act granting paid maternity leave for all employed women./ In education a resolution of two years compulsory working experience prior to university entry was relaxed for women. All these measures are not considered discriminatory against men, rather it's an effort to promote equality for women who lagged behind men.

ARTICLE V

2.6 Despite strong social and cultural biases against development and advancement of female children, the government has enacted several education laws and regulations which among other things aim at ensuring that:-

1. All children of 8 years and above are enrolled and complete standard seven years of primary education irrespective of their sex. (Education act No. 25 of 1978).

2. The rate of drop-outs, especially for girls is minimised by penalizing anyone who causes the girls to leave school either through pregnancies or pre-arranged marriages.

2.7 In an attempt to modify the Social and Cultural conducts and views, the party, through the Women's organization, has tried to seek public opinion on such issues as dowry which equates the value of women to money or animals with the aim of delibarations will help to legally eliminate the custom.

2.8 Although the responsibility of raising children is largely considered as women's work, there is accelerated realization of common responsibility for both women and men in the up bringing development of their children. Programmes such as those sponsered by UNICEF, and FAO on Family Life Education and Nutrition, the proposed national population policy and the teaching of such subjects as biology and cookery to every pupil in schools, are helping to increase awareness of the need for common responsibility in family affairs.

ARTICLE VI

2.9. Prostitution is not legally recognized or protected in Tanzania. While there might be trafficing in women and exploitation of prostitution for women, these are not backed by law. The government has defined legal work. The government launched several campaingns that require every abled persons to be productive. Such policies include the agricultural policy, and the human development act of 1982.

ARTICLE VII

2.10 The Tanzania Constitution allows every citizen aged 18 years and above to vote and be voted for in elections, irrespective of their sex. Women are also encouraged to stand for higher posts in the party and government during election. In order to facilitate these, the women have been spared ten seats in the parliament reserved specially for women.

2.11 Although women representation is still relatively low, there have been an increasing number of women appointed to higher posts and involve in government and party policy formulation.

There are todate, for example 3 women Ministers, 1 Principal Secretary, several Magistrates, Doctors and those working in the fields that were considered as men's, such as engineering. and management and 1 women pilot.

ARTICLE VIII

2.12 To ensure women's participation and representation at the international level, Tanzania has appointed women as ambasadors, and representatives at various U.N. bodies and other international organizations such as UNICEF, FAO, UNESCO, DANIDA, to mention a few.

ARTICLE IX

2.13 Tanzania has strived to guarantee Tanzanian women nationality even upon marriage to an alien. The offsprings of Tanzanian women are entittled to Tanzanian citizenship if so wished by the parents.

ARTICLE X

2.14 Despite clearly stated objectives of providing equal educational opportunities, since colonial times todate, the number of children selected for, Primary and Post primary education has been smaller compared to that of boys. Compulsory primary education has resulted in near equalization of enrolment between the sexes. This is reflected in the table below.

TABLE 1: PRIMARY SCHOOLS - ENROLMENT BY CLASS AND SEX: GIRLS AS PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ENROLMENT

	YEAR	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84
ALL	CLASSES	40	42	24	23	22	46	46	47	48	48	-	-
STD	I	42	44	45	47	47	47	49	49	50	50	-	-
STD	II	43	42	43	45	46	47	48	49	50	50	-	-
STD	III	41	42	43	45	46	47	48	49	50	50	-	-
STD	IV	40	41	42	42	43	45	46	47	48	49	-	-
STD	V	38	39	40	41	42	43	45	46	47	48	-	-
STD	VI	38	38	38	40	40	42	49	44	46	47	-	-
STD	VII	36	37	37	37	36	39	41	41	43	43	-	-

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION - ROY CARR (1984)

The low number of girls enroled for post primary education has affected women's representation at professional higher technical education and other types of vocational training, except in those fields still regarded as traditional occupations, like home-economics, homecraft, cookery, tailoring, teaching etc. The table below illustrates this situation:

TABLE II VOCATIONAL TRAINING - ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS BY SEX IN 1979

		FEMALE	MALE
1.	Motor Vehicle Mechanics	2	136
2.	Machinists (Fitting & Training)	4	45
3.	Electrical Instalation	5	55
4.	Painting and Signwriting	9	26
5.	Office Machine Machanics	14	21
6.	Tailoring	22	2
7.	Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	4	34
8.	Amature and Motor Rewinding	25	21
9.	Civil Draughting	6	29
10.	Mechanical Draughting	1	25
	TOTAL	92	392

Source NVTD extract from the Annual Manpower Report to the President 1979.

2.15 For the few girls who secure places in the educational institution, they have access to the same curricula, examinations teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard and school premises, and equipment of the same quality, as boys.

2.16 During the past ten years the government education policies have concentrated on increasing day co-educational schools.

2.17 Legally, Scholarships and grants, in Tanzania are awarded on merit irrespective of sex. However, due to small number of women who qualify for such grants and scholarships, then usually men take the chance.

2.18 Tanzania has made a major step in reducing fuctional illiteracy. The national literacy campaign which reached its peak in 1975 has raised the literacy level of women. The illiteracy rate was reduced

from 27 percent in 1971 to 21 percent in 1981, and 15 percent in 1983, making Tanzania a country with least illiterate number of people in Africa, as illustrated in the table below.

TABLE III ILLITERACY REDUCTION PERCENTAGE IN 1983

YEAR	TOTAL PERCENTAGE OF REDUCTION	MEN	WOMEN
1967	69	56	80
1975	39	34	44
1977	27	-	-
1981	21	15	27
1983	15	10	21

SOURCE: Evaluation of functional literacy in Tanzania. Directorate of Adult Education - Ministry of National Education, 1984.

2.19 Efforts to reduce female student drop-outs rate is as stated under article (V) above. However there are no national organised programmes for rehabilitating female student drop-outs. Several voluntary organizations such as YMCA have some educational programmes, but they are not widely known and spread.

2.20 Opportunities are open for both men and women to participate actively in sports and physical education. However, women representation in sports and physical education are still hampered by social and cultural prejudice.

2.21 Due to the increasing awareness to responsible parenthood, discussed in article (V) above, the Ministry of Health, the National family planning association and other relevant bodies, have been spreading, information advice, and services even to rural communities.

ARTICLE XI

2.22 All Tanzanians have the right to work so long as the qualify for the job in question. Women, as well as men have access to the same employment opportunities, free choice of profession, the right to promotion and all benefits and conditions of service. Women are subjected to equal renumeration as men. However, there still exist some social and cultural biases that have hindered women's equal rights to employment. These include the attitude in some factories which limit the number of employees urguing that they spend too much time on maternity leave and care for families.

2.23 The government offers all employees the right to social security in case of retirement, and invalidity and other incapacity to work

while on duty. Several bodies such as the National Provident Fund, see to it that these rights are given at the right time. The Employment ammendment act of 1975 see to it, that women benefit in the areas of retirement, invalidity and incapacity. However, there is still a need, of ensuring that the same rights are also provided to the non-employed, especially women in the rural areas.

2.24 The function of reproduction is safeguarded through the provision of maternal and child care (MCH) services nation wide.

2.25 In order to help women meet family obligations with work responsibilities, there have been a drive to promote the establishment and development of day care centres at work places. Other efforts to help women, meet family obligations, include the affiliation fee granted under the Affiliation Ordinance, especially for single-parent women and divorced.

ARTICLE XII

2.26 In Tanzania, health services are provided free to all citizens. Paid health services are also available, and can be used optionally.

ARTICLE XIII

2.27 The right to family benefit in Tanzania are insecure for women. because most of the inheritance laws are based on customary law as noted in the 1963 Government Act No. 436 section 333. Due to Women's unclear rights to inheritance and property ownership, they have always been denied the access to bank loans, morgages and other financial and credit facilities, which require colateral.

ARTICLE XIV

2.28 Despite government's efforts to promote women's participation in planning and development of rural programmes, their representation is still low. The government's various educational and health programmes are geared towards increasing women's awareness to increase participation.

2.29 To ensure equal access to economic opportunities through employment or self-employment, the goverment promotes and supports self-help groups and cooperatives. Access to social security, health care facilities, training and educational opportunities and agricultural credits is as mentioned in articles (X - XIII) above.

ARTICLE XV

2.30 In Tanzania all people are accorded equality before the law. Subject to overcoming the inheritance law huddles mentioned in article (XIII), women have legal capacity identical to that of men, and the same opportunites to exercise that capacity. Tanzanians have the right and freedom to choose their residence and domicile.